Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

Listing of Claims:

Please cancel claims 2 and 5-8 without prejudice.

Please amend claims 1, 3, 4, and 9-12 and add new claims 13-17 as follows:

1.   (currently amended)   A computer ~~apparatus~~ implemented visual modeling tool

comprising:

a user interface including a display for displaying information from the visual modeling

tool and interacting with the visual modeling tool;

~~means for displaying~~ the visual modeling tool operating to interactively and gradually

display successive decision levels of a visual multi-level decision tree, ~~model in a symbol based~~

~~table, the visual model including a plurality of~~ each decision level including at least one visual

object[[s]], each ~~of the~~ visual object[[s]] being linked to at least one other visual object to form a

multi-level decision tree, and for decision levels with more than one visual object selection of

one visual object represents a choice between the visual objects;

the visual modeling tool generating at least one browser button at a decision level with

more than one visual object for providing information concerning choosing between said more

than one visual object; and

~~such that after the initial object the tree displays~~ the user interface operating to

control the display so that as a user selects visual objects, the display displays only visual objects

which depend from visual objects which have been selected ~~by a user~~.

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2.   (cancelled)

3.   (currently amended)   ~~A computer apparatus as claimed in~~The visual modeling

tool of claim 1, wherein once the final visual object ~~set~~ in the visual multi-level decision tree

model is ~~presented~~ selected, consequences of that choice are presented to the user.

4.   (currently amended)   A computer implemented visual modeling method for

interactively displaying in succession decision levels of a visual multi-level decision tree, the

visual modeling method comprising:

displaying a decision level of the visual multi-level decision tree model, ~~in a symbol~~

~~based table,~~ the decision level including at least one visual object, each visual object being linked

to at least one other visual object to form a multi-level decision tree, and decision levels with

more than one visual object representing a choice between the visual objects;

generating a plurality of browser buttons at each decision level for providing information

concerning a choice of a visual object;

responding to a selection of a browser button by displaying information concerning a

choice of a visual object;

responding to a selection of a visual object by causing a current decision level to advance

to a next decision level for non-final visual objects; and

continuing with the steps of displaying a decision level, generating a plurality of browser

buttons, responding to a selection of a browser button, responding to a selection of a visual

object, ~~visual model including~~until a final visual object is selected whereby a plurality of visual

objects, each of the visual objects ~~being linked to at least one other~~ directly depend from visual

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objects which have been selected by a user, form a visual multi-level decision tree model that is displayed level by level in succession based on user decisions.

5-8.   (cancelled)

9.   (currently amended)   A The visual modeling method as claimed inof claim 4, wherein once the final visual object in the tree is presentedselected, consequences of that choice are presented to the user.

10.   (currently amended)   A The visual modeling method as claimed in of claim 9, wherein the consequences include cost implications of the choice.

11.   (currently amended)   A The visual modeling method as claimed inof claim 9, wherein the consequences include workload implications of the choice.

12.   (currently amended)   A The visual modeling method as claimed inof claim 9, wherein the consequences include risk analysis of the choice.

13.   (new) The visual modeling tool of claim 1 further comprising:

a processing apparatus for running the visual modeling tool; and

the processing apparatus further running an internet connection program and an internet browser program available for use by the visual modeling tool running on the processor.

14.   (new) The visual modeling tool of claim 1 wherein the visual objects are decision statements that represent choices to be made by a user.

15.   (new) The visual modeling tool of claim 1 where in the browser buttons at each decision level further comprises a browser button to browse considerations concerning a selection of a visual object.

16. (new) The visual modeling tool of claim 1 where in the browser buttons at each decision level further comprises a browser button to browse questions concerning a selection of a visual object.

17. (new) The visual modeling tool of claim 1 where in the browser buttons at each decision level further comprises a browser button to browse answers put forward by other users to questions concerning a selection of a visual object.

18. (new) The visual modeling method of claim 4 wherein the browser buttons are internet browser buttons further comprising:

a consideration browser button with an internet link to access consideration information as an aid in making a selection;

a question browser button with an internet link to access questions pertinent to making a selection; and

an answer browser button with an internet link to user answers to the questions pertinent to making a selection.

19. (new) A computer-readable medium whose contents cause a visual modeling tool to perform interactively with the display of a visual multi-level decision tree model in successive decision levels beginning at an initial decision level, by performing the steps of:

displaying a decision level of the visual multi-level decision tree model, the decision level including at least one visual object, each visual object being linked to at least one other visual object to form a multi-level decision tree and decision levels with more than one visual object representing a choice between the visual objects;

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generating a plurality of browser buttons at each decision level for providing information

concerning a choice of a visual object;

responding to a selection of a browser button to browse considerations, questions, and

answers based on the browser button selected as an aid in making a choice of a visual object;

responding to a selection a visual object by causing the visual modeling tool to advance a

current decision level to a next decision level for non-final visual objects; and

continuing with the steps of displaying a decision level, generating a plurality of browser

buttons, responding to a selection of a browser button, and responding to a selection of a visual

object until a final visual object is selected whereby a plurality of visual objects, each of the

visual objects directly depend from visual objects which have been selected by a user, form a

visual multi-level decision tree model that is displayed level by level in succession based on user

decisions.